

Please Amend the Abstract as follows:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Electronic ~~documents~~ messages are exchanged between a plurality of devices. Electronic ~~document~~ message received from a source device is analyzed. From the result of this analysis it is decided whether to transmit the electronic ~~document~~ message to some other destination device or decide the destination of the electronic ~~document~~ message that is to be relayed. Electronic ~~documents~~ messages to be relayed are divided or merged in accordance with a predetermined length of the electronic ~~document~~ message and allowable stay times for respective destination device. The divided or merged electronic ~~document~~ message are transmitted to the destination device.